



Inside ICE

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GARCIA SAYS SEVIS PROGRAM READY FOR FALL INFLUX OF FOREIGN STUDENTS

Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia was joined by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Robert Bonner for an August 27 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) event at Dulles International Airport in Virginia. The two were there to highlight a very successful first year and to kick off the second year of SEVIS by welcoming some of the anticipated 220,000 foreign students this fall.

SEVIS, a web-based program for maintaining information on international students and exchange visitors in the United States is administered by ICE and facilitated by CBP. SEVIS has simplified what was once a manual process, resulting in more accurate and timely data, faster processing and fewer delays for student and exchange visitors.

Assistant Secretary Garcia stated that one of the lessons of 9/11 was that "we needed to change our system for managing the flow of student visitors to the United States. SEVIS represents one of the concrete ways in which Homeland Security has



A foreign student, left, arriving at Dulles International Airport in Virginia, chats with Assistant Secretary Michael Garcia, second from left, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Robert Bonner while a CBP Inspector, right, notes the student's arrival in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS).

addressed a key vulnerability in our nation's security."

The Department of Homeland Security anticipates building upon SEVIS' remarkable first-year success. The SEVIS program has registered 8,737 schools and exchange visitor programs at more than 9,500 campuses and welcomed more than 770,000 students and exchange visitors with 100,000 of their dependents since the launch of SEVIS in August 2003. The number of international students coming to the United States continues to rise, and in the next two months, ICE expects to

welcome about 5,000 more foreign students than the same period last year.

One of the keys to SEVIS' success has been the attention ICE SEVIS program administrators have paid to feedback received from users - the academic community, inspectors at the port of entry, consular officers, and students and exchange visitors themselves. The SEVIS program administrators have been diligent in listening and responding to concerns and whenever possible incorporating suggestions to make the program run more smoothly.

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A Pilatus PC-12 like the one shown at right will help protect the Northern border at the new Bellingham, Wash., Air and Marine Branch.



AMO UNVEILS BRANCH ON NORTHERN BORDER

A new ICE initiative launched August 20 in Bellingham, Wash., will be the first step toward enhancing security at the U.S.-Canadian border.

BORDER SECURITY

ICE's Office of Air and Marine Operations (AMO) announced the establishment of the Bellingham Air and Marine Branch to crack down on human and narcotics smuggling at the Northern border – providing a new line of defense in the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) layered approach to protecting U.S. borders.

The Bellingham branch will augment current Northern border security by coordinating air and marine law enforcement and providing greater surveillance at the U.S.-Canadian border.

The Bellingham branch also marks the extension to the Northern border

of successful enforcement and interdiction strategies that AMO has used for years at the Southern border.

On August 20, ICE hosted a dedication ceremony at the site with participation from AMO Director Charles Stallworth along with several members of the Washington congressional delegation, including U.S. Sen. Patty Murray, U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen and U.S. Rep. George Nethercutt.

"With this new facility, we're demonstrating our commitment to strengthening our nation's security," said AMO Director Stallworth. "Our goal is simple. We want to replicate here the success we have had in strengthening our Southern border against smugglers and terrorists."

At full capacity, the Bellingham branch will consist of 69 law enforcement officers, pilots, air crew and mission support personnel.

In addition, the new branch will boast a range of AMO assets, including a me-

dium lift helicopter, a light enforcement helicopter, a Pilatus PC-12 enforcement/surveillance plane, one SAFE boat and one utility boat. The Bellingham unit will conduct regular mission patrols and provide rapid response in the event of emergencies and critical incidents.

The new facility is the first of five planned AMO facilities at the Northern border, with future sites planned in Plattsburgh, New York; Montana; North Dakota; and Michigan.



ICE Air and Marine Operations (AMO) Director Charles Stallworth, left, walks with U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen prior to ceremonies marking the opening of a new AMO Branch in Bellingham, Wash.

Inside ICE is an e-newsletter produced by the ICE Office of Public Affairs to inform the public about the mission, operations and activities of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Please send comments and contributions to: Russ.Bergeron@dhs.gov.

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Editor

ICE STOPS ILLEGAL ARMS SALES TO TERRORISTS

ICE investigations have led to the indictment of seven men in two separate cases involving the illegal sale of arms to terrorist and paramilitary groups.

PUBLIC SECURITY

In the first case, a 53-year-old Colombian man was indicted for attempting to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization in a \$4 million arms deal with Colombian guerillas.

Carlos Enrique Gamarra-Murillo, 53, was indicted in Florida in a six-count indictment charging him with violating various export laws, as well as violating laws related to drug trafficking and weapons possession.

According to the indictment, from March 2003 through April 2004, Gamarra-Murillo served as a broker for a foreign terrorist organization in an attempt to illegally export machine guns, grenade launchers, assault rifles, grenades and other weapons out of the United States and into the hands of the FARC (Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia) in Colombia. The weapons have an estimated total value of nearly \$4 million.

In the second case, six men have been indicted by a federal grand jury in connection with a conspiracy to illegally export arms to paramilitary groups in South America.

The indictment follows a joint investigation by ICE and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) that resulted in the seizure of more than 200 assault weapons and 700,000 rounds of military style ammunition.

The Indictment stems from an investigation that began when ATF

agents responded to a call from tenants of a Miami area warehouse who were dealing with a water leak. ATF Agents found a crate filled with AK-47 type rifles lying open on the floor next to a damaged toilet, apparently the source of the flooding.

Working with a confidential informant, federal agents set up an undercover warehouse facility and tracked the defendants. The undercover investigation revealed that the weapons and ammunition were purchased by the organization in the United States and sold for profit to buyers and suppliers acting on behalf of FARC and the Colombian Paramilitary Group AUC, both designated by the U. S. Department as terrorist organizations.



A Central American paramilitary guerilla brandishes an AK-47 assault rifle similar to those in the illegal deal discovered by ICE.
(Photo - SOFCOM.mil)

ICE WINS HIGH ROLLER'S GUILTY PLEA

Jean Pierre Collardeau, the former president Pro Net Link Corporation, pleaded guilty August 19 in Newark to conspiring with at least 12 other people in an elaborate scheme to defraud investors of more than \$20 million.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

Collardeau, 62, is a French citizen who resides in New York City. His guilty plea stems from "Operation High Roller," conducted by ICE, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) with assistance from Canadian and Swiss authorities.

Collardeau admitted that he secretly controlled millions of dollars worth of Pro Net Link (PNLK) stock issued in the names of other persons and companies. Collardeau also admitted that he issued a large block of PNLK stock to a fictitious iden-

tity. Collardeau admitted that issued shares were then deposited into accounts in Canada that he and his conspirators controlled.

Collardeau admitted that he and others duped the investing public in order to spark interest and demand for the stock. He also admitted that while under oath he failed to disclose to the Securities Exchange Commission his partnership with two other un-indicted co-conspirators and that he filed false reports and forms with the SEC.

Collardeau admitted that more than \$20 million was deposited into various accounts and that he personally used some of the money to buy three New York houses. As part of the plea agreement, Collardeau agreed to forfeit to the three New York housing units, with a total estimated worth in excess of \$3 million, and over \$940,000 in cash. The forfeited properties and cash will be made available to defrauded investors.

ICE FAMILY REMEMBERS FALLEN FLORIDA DEPUTY

The ICE family this week remembered fallen Broward County Deputy Sheriff Todd Fatta, who was shot and killed while helping to serve ICE federal arrest and search warrants in a joint ICE, state and local child pornography investigation in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. August 19.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Detective Fatta was laid to rest in West Seneca, N.Y., August 27 after memorial services in Florida that were attended by numerous ICE employees. Rick Mercier, Assistant Director of the ICE Office of Investigations, attended on behalf of senior ICE officials.

Deputy Fatta, who was a detective with BSO, died after he was shot with a high-powered rifle by a suspect at a home in Ft. Lauderdale. BSO Sergeant Angelo Cedenio was also wounded in the operation. Sergeant Cedenio was shot in the left arm and had a finger shot off his left hand.

Both men were wearing bulletproof vests and were taken to North Broward Medical Center. Detective Fatta was pronounced dead around 9:17 a.m., August 19. Sergeant Cedenio underwent surgery and was in serious but stable condition. As Inside ICE was approaching deadline, Sgt. Cedenio remained hospitalized in Ft. Lauderdale but was

expected to recover and return to duty.

Both officers were members of the Law Enforcement Against Child Harm (LEACH) Task Force, a special multi-agency unit charged with fighting child pornography in South Florida. The joint task force was serving federal arrest warrants for obstruction of justice and conspiracy to possess child pornography on Paul Wilk, 42, of Ft. Lauderdale. Wilk was arrested unharmed at the scene and is a suspect in the shooting.



Det. Todd Fatta

ICE Miami Special Agent-In-Charge Jesus Torres said, "This detective paid the ultimate price by sacrificing himself in the defense of our children. Both Detective Fatta and Sergeant Cedenio have played key roles in the Miami law enforcement community. They have worked closely with us. We consider them ICE family and they have given themselves up for their community. We have lost a young man and a protector, and hopefully the person responsible for this terrible murder will be brought to justice. Our prayers go out to the families of Detective Fatta and Sergeant Cedenio. The ICE family is here for them."

ALIEN PREDATORS ARRESTED IN N.Y., MARYLAND OPS

ICE agents in New York and Baltimore on August 18 announced the combined arrest of 88 sexual predators and criminal alien sexual offenders. There were 24 arrests in Baltimore, and in New York, 64 arrests were made in one day—one of the largest single day enforcement actions yet under Operation Predator.

PUBLIC SECURITY

Among those arrested under last week's "Operation Predator" sweeps were foreign-born sex offenders who have been convicted of charges that include rape, sodomy, sexual abuse, sexual misconduct, endangering the welfare of a child, criminal sexual contact and forcible touching. The youngest victim was six months old.

The arrested predators were from a wide range of nations, including Antigua, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Korea, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Trinidad and Yemen. Many were in the United States

illegally. Based upon prior criminal convictions, they are subject to removal from the United States.

"ICE targeted predators who raped, sodomized and sexually abused children of all ages, one just 6 months old," said Martin D. Ficke, ICE Special Agent-in-Charge (SAC) for New York. "Those who prey on the children of New York are not welcome."

"Children are the most vulnerable members of our community," said Baltimore SAC Cindy O'Connell. "This operation would not have been possible without the assistance we received from the other state and local law enforcement agencies."

Since Operation Predator was launched in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 3,800 child predators nationwide. The targets of Operation Predator include U.S. citizens suspected of sex crimes against children and non-citizen sex offenders whose crimes make them subject to removal from the United States.

FIRM PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL CHINA ARMS SALES

A California supplier of aircraft parts, exposed in an ICE-led investigation for illegally selling military equipment to foreign buyers,

ECONOMIC SECURITY

pleaded guilty this week to violating the Arms Export Control Act.

Interaero, a company located in Westlake Village, Calif., admitted on August 17 to illegally exporting

six shipments of military aircraft parts -- valued at more than \$40,000 -- to the People's Republic of China between June 2000 and March 2001. The buyer in China had planned to transfer the parts to Iran. Transfer of military equipment to both countries is prohibited without an export license.

The shipments included parts for F-4 Phantom Fighters, F-5 Phantom/Tiger Fighters and Hawk missiles.

ICE Assistant Secretary Michael

Garcia praised the outcome of the case as an example of an effective homeland security investigation.

"Companies that jeopardize America's security for the sake of profits are priority targets for ICE and the Department of Homeland Security," Mr. Garcia said. "The sensitive items that this company exported are controlled for a good reason -- in the wrong hands, they pose threats to U.S. forces abroad and to Americans at home."

HUMAN SMUGGLING TRAGEDY AVERTED IN TEXAS

The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and ICE stopped a potentially deadly human smuggling operation in Amarillo, Texas, Aug. 23 when 19 illegal aliens were removed from a poorly ventilated, non-refrigerated tractor-trailer traveling from El Paso.

BORDER SECURITY

DPS troopers noticed several people in the back of the truck hidden behind pallets after making a routine traffic stop along Interstate 40, just east of Vega, Texas, and about 50 miles east of Amarillo.

ICE agents were called to the scene and they learned that 15 of the aliens were from Brazil and four from the Dominican Republic. An inspection of the trailer found that the aliens were not provided water, food or a toilet. Two other aliens, Jose Antonio Cordero-Martinez, the driver of the truck and a U.S. permanent resident, and co-driver Pablo Enrique Sosa, a citizen of El Salvador, were arrested as suspected human smugglers.

The aliens said they had had last eaten about 5 p.m. August 22 and were loaded into the truck about 10 p.m. The truck departed El Paso

about midnight and was destined for Dallas. It was about 400 miles from Dallas when it was stopped. To reach Dallas, the aliens would have had to survive another seven hours in late-August Texas heat.

"This could have been a tragedy," said Special Agent-in-Charge John Dennis of the ICE Dallas office. "After a few more hours, that truck could have turned into a metal coffin for all 19 people, who were loaded like cattle. No one should trust their lives -- or their loved ones lives -- to human smugglers who repeatedly show they have no regard for human life."

MIAMI ICE ASSISTS RECOVERY IN CHARLEY'S WAKE

In the wake of Hurricane Charley, an ICE Black Hawk helicopter crew supported emergency responders in Florida, including a medical evacuation to transport a critical heart attack patient.

PUBLIC SECURITY

On August 14, the ICE Air and Marine Branch at Homestead Air Force Base mobilized a UH-60 Black Hawk crew to assist with emergency services in Arcadia, Fla.

Damage to the hospital resulted in medical staff being unable to effectively treat a heart attack patient. With time a critical factor, the ICE Black Hawk served as an airborne ambulance to "medevac" the patient to Tampa General Hospital.

Afterwards, the crew assisted with emergency response across the area, using night vision equipment, searchlights and infrared cameras to survey damaged areas and provide search-and-rescue support. In the days that followed, the Black Hawk

moved other law enforcement personnel and supplies throughout the devastated areas, supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by transporting people, equipment and supplies to aid the victims.

In addition, the Miami ICE Office of Detention and Removal dispatched several ICE employees -- including a Disturbance Control Team -- to assist and support emergency efforts in nearby communities hit hardest by the storm.

Inside ICE

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, responsible for the enforcement of border, economic, infrastructure and transportation security laws.

ICE seeks to prevent acts of terrorism by targeting the people, money and materials that support terrorist and criminal activities.

On Target ...



A Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officer test-fires a weapon as an ICE agent observes during the four months of testing that led to the selection of Heckler & Koch and SIGARMS to supply handguns for all organizational elements within the Department of Homeland Security, including ICE.